TRANSLATED BY LINEFACED @ TUMBLR

SLASH
!!
RUSH

"YOU'RE TERRIFIED OF BEING ALONE, SO YOU SMOOTH IT OVER BY ACTING CAREFREE."
"THE SHOPPING DISTRICT, AND JUNES, TOO... SCREW THEM BOTH!"
...HAVE CONFIDENCE, NO MATTER WHERE I GO.
I...
BUT THE TRUTH IS...
THERE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY PROBLEMS CHANGING SCHOOLS AND MOVING TO INABA.
MY PERSONALITY IS BRIGHT, MY GRADES ARE AVERAGE, AND I HAVE GOOD FASHION SENSE...

IF I COULD GO BACK TO THE CITY, I WOULD.
I DIDN'T WANT TO COME TO THIS BACKWATER TOWN...!
EVERY DAY IN INABA WAS SO BORING, I FELT LIKE I WAS SUFFOCATING.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME YOU HAD, IT WASN'T ENOUGH...
IN THE CITY, EVERYTHING YOU COULD POSSIBLY WANT WAS IN EASY REACH. IT WAS SO LIVELY THAT EVEN JUST WALKING AROUND WAS FUN.
I COULDN'T HANDLE IT.
IN INABA, I THOUGHT I WAS JUST IDLING ALL MY TIME AWAY.

GUH
...
SMASH
NARUKAMI
...
WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT?

HEH HEH... THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU NEED TO PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE, RIGHT?
AH HA HA HA!
huff
huff
... ENOUGH.
YOU CAN STOP NOW...
THAT'S ... ENOUGH, NARUKAMI...

NARUKAMI...
YOU...
DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO KEEP FIGHTING FOR MY SAKE...
IF YOU EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME AGAIN...
I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF!

COME, IZANAGI!
WHAT IS...
WITH THIS GUY...?

HE'S INCREDIBLY COOL.
WHEN HE SAID HE'D MOVED FROM THE CITY, I THOUGHT HE AND I WOULD BE SIMILAR, BUT...
WE COULDN'T BE MORE DIFFERENT.
WHEN HE'S UP AGAINST THAT MONSTER, HE DOESN'T GIVE UP... HE STANDS AND FACES IT...
AND ME?
AM I OKAY WITH STAYING LIKE THIS?
...HELL NO! THIS ISN'T GOOD AT ALL!
CLENCH

I WANT TO CHANGE.
I...
...WANT TO CHANGE!
SLASH

SENSEI, YOSUKE, ARE YOU OKAY?
!

YOU'RE ...
YOU...
IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT IT, IT'LL GO ON A RAMPAGE LIKE BEFORE.
THAT THING CAME FROM YOU, YOSUKE.
EVERYONE HAS A HIDDEN SIDE TO THEMSELVES LIKE THIS.
...BE BRAVE, YOSUKE.

IT'S EMBARRASSING, AND EVEN IF I KNOW I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, I DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT...
DAMMIT... I KNOW THAT, BUT...
.....
YOU'RE ME... AND I'M YOU.
ALL OF THIS COMBINED IS ME.

YOSUKE!
SLUMP
WHEN WE HEARD SENPAI'S VOICE EARLIER...
I WONDER IF THOSE WERE FEELINGS SHE WAS REPRESSING IN HER HEART, TOO...
THIS IS MY...
"PERSONA" ...
HAHA... "A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS," HUH...?
IF THAT'S ALL SHE FELT, THIS WAS A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE WAY OF TURNING ME DOWN...
DAMN... THIS IS SO LAME...

THANKS, NARUKAMI.
...YOU REALLY SAVED ME BY BEING HERE...
AFTER THAT...
WITH TEDDIE'S HELP, WE WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO JUNES.

AND THEN ...
YO-! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
UNDER THE PRETENSE OF INVESTIGATING THE MURDERS, WE STARTED HANGING OUT TOGETHER.
I'M SO HUNGRY... AREN'T WE GOING TO EAT SOMETHING?
WE'RE ABOUT TO START A STRATEGY MEETING, HERE!
I WAS PARTICULARLY CLOSE WITH NARUKAMI, BECAUSE I KNEW HE'D SEEN ALL THE UGLIEST SIDES OF ME.
HE CAME TO BE REALLY SPECIAL TO ME.

...HONESTLY, IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY I'D INTERACT WITH THE GUYS IN THE CITY.
WE ALL WEREN'T VERY CLOSE, SO WE WERE JUST NICE TO EACH OTHER MOST OF THE TIME.
SINCE THE ATMOSPHERE WAS LIKE THAT, I GOT USED TO IT...
SO OF COURSE, I ENDED UP BECOMING THAT WAY, TOO...
.....

HANAMURA ...
HAHA!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
HE'S SENT ME ANY PHOTOS FROM OVER THERE.

...KONISHI-SENPAI...
ENCOURAGED ME WHEN I WAS DEPRESSED ABOUT ALL THE THINGS IN MY LIFE THAT SUCKED.
I WAS HAPPY...
I THOUGHT SHE WAS A LOT LIKE ME, SO I GOT OVEREXCITED.
.....

WHEN YOU TRANSFERRED HERE FROM THE CITY, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE LIKE ME.
BUT YOU ADAPTED TO INABA LIKE THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IT AND THE CITY...
WHAT'S IMPORTANT ISN'T THE PLACE, IT'S WHAT YOU DO IN IT.
YOU MADE ME REALIZE THAT.
I WANT TO SHOW THAT TO SENPAI, TOO...
YOSUKE
...

I LIKE TO BRAG ABOUT YOU...
YOU SUMMONED YOUR PERSONA, RISKED YOUR LIFE, AND SAVED ME...
YOU BECAME SO STRONG SO FAST...
YOU'RE REALLY AMAZING.
I WANT YOU TO HIT ME!
YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND!
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FEEL LIKE I CAN REALLY SAY THAT... YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME!
I THINK OUT OF EVERYONE, I WANTED YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE ME MOST. SO... NARUKAMI...
CLENCH

I WANT YOU TO KNOCK ALL THIS CRAP OUT OF ME!
I WANT TO BE EQUALS WITH YOU!
I WANT TO US TO STAND SIDE-BY-SIDE!
BUT YOU HAVE TO HIT ME, TOO.
THEN WE'LL BE EQUAL.
...OKAY.
!
HERE I...
GO!
YOU BETTER NOT HOLD BACK!

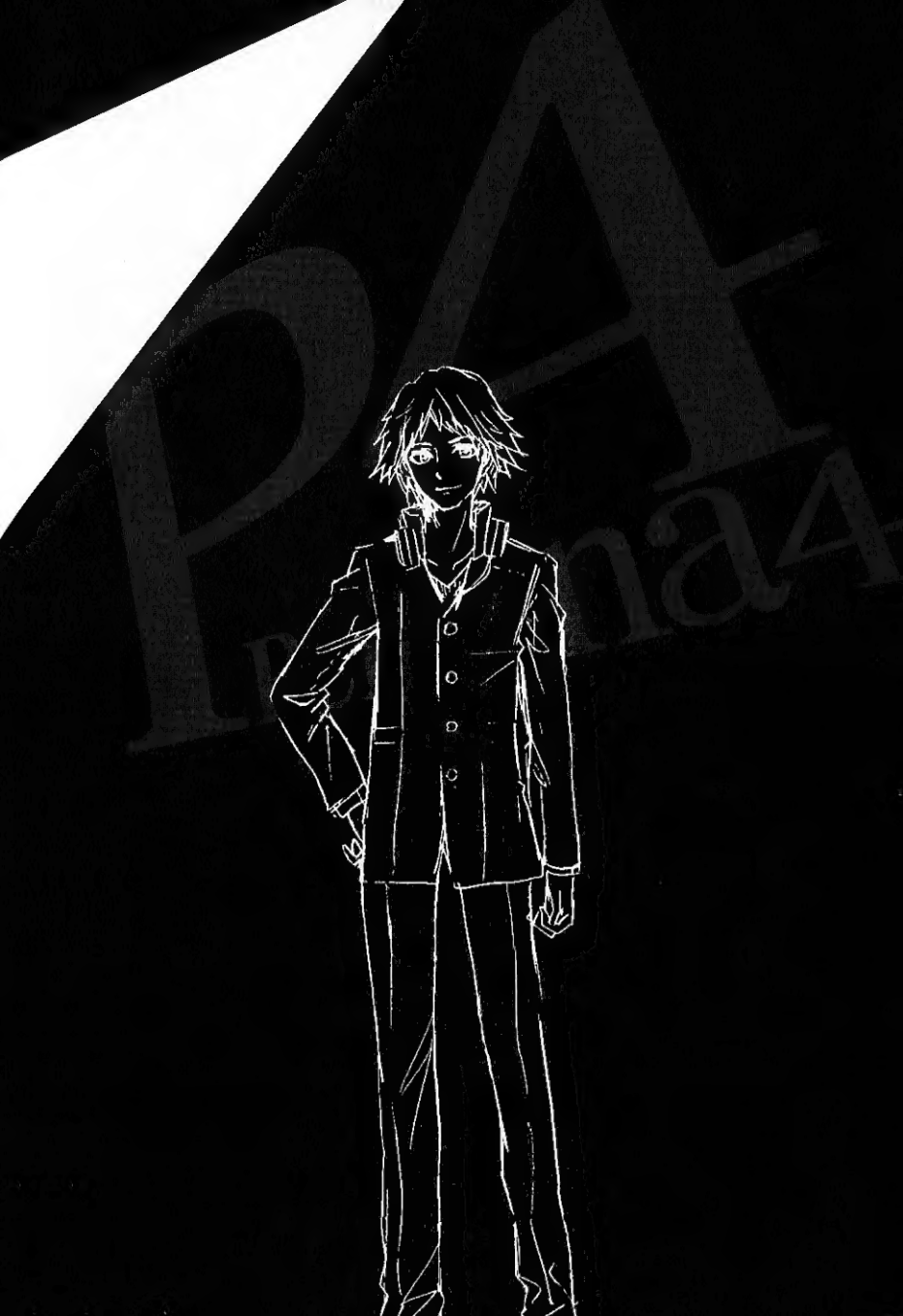
S
h
h
h

OWW...
THANKS, YU.
THAT WAS... BETTER THAN WORDS.
PHEW...
THE SKY'S WAY UP THERE, HUH.
I WONDER IF SENPAI'S WATCHING US.
I WONDER IF SHE'S LAUGHING, SAYING, "WHAT ARE THOSE TWO DOING?"
SHIMMER...
...?!

I...
WILL LIVE ON, WITH HONESTY, WITHOUT LYING TO MYSELF.
HAHA ...
... SENPAI,

HERE, IN INABA ...
FIN.

You are
not alone



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